

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General  
20 December 2001

Original: English

**Commission on Sustainable Development  
acting as the preparatory committee for the  
World Summit on Sustainable Development**  
Second preparatory session  
28 January-8 February 2002

**Multi-stakeholder dialogue segment of the second session of  
the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the  
preparatory committee for the World Summit on  
Sustainable Development**

**Note by the Secretary-General**

1. In decision 2001/PC/3,<sup>1</sup> adopted at its organizational session (30 April-2 May 2001, New York), the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development approved a multi-stakeholder dialogue segment as part of the programme of the first substantive (second preparatory) session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee. The decision entitled "Arrangements for accreditation and participation in the preparatory process and in the World Summit on Sustainable Development of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups" provides, inter alia, for the following:

Based on the practices of the Commission on Sustainable Development, a number of multi-stakeholder dialogue segments will be organized as part of the preparatory committee meetings. Dialogue starter papers from major groups will be requested in the form of reviews of progress and future action necessary under the relevant major group chapters of Agenda 21. The planned multi-stakeholder dialogues include (sect. B, para. 6):

(a) In the early part of the second preparatory committee meeting, a two-day multi-stakeholder dialogue with representatives from all nine major groups will be organized. The focus of the dialogue will be aligned with the issues that are on the agenda of the preparatory meeting, that is, a comprehensive review and assessment of progress achieved in implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. The purpose of this dialogue will be to provide an opportunity to representatives of major groups to share their views on the progress achieved. The outcome of this dialogue will be a Chair's summary, which will be submitted to the preparatory committee and incorporated into its records;

(b) In the early part of the fourth preparatory committee meeting, a two-day multi-stakeholder dialogue with representatives from all nine major groups will be organized. The focus of this dialogue will be aligned with the issues that are on the agenda of this meeting, that is, need for a global partnership to achieve the objectives of sustainable development, reconfirming the need for an integrated and strategically focused approach to the implementation of



Agenda 21 and addressing the main challenges and opportunities faced by the international community in this regard. The purpose of this second dialogue will be to provide opportunities to representatives of major groups to contribute their views on future actions and priorities. The outcome of this dialogue will be a Chair's summary, which will be submitted to the preparatory committee and incorporated into its records.

2. The secretariat of the Summit has been working with a multi-stakeholder steering group composed of organizing partners from each major group sector to prepare for the dialogue segments, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee. The organizing partners are drawn from major group networks on the basis of their expertise and contributions to sustainable development, their capacity to effectively reach out to their major group community for consultations, and the credibility that they command from their communities. The list of organizing partners include the following:

- Women's Environment and Development Organization (chap. 24, women);
- Youth Coalition for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (chap. 25, children and youth);
- Commission on Sustainable Development Indigenous Peoples' Caucus and Inuit Circumpolar Conference (chap. 26, indigenous people);
- Third World Network, Environment Liaison Centre International and Danish 92 Group (chap. 27, non-governmental organizations);
- International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (chap. 28, local authorities);
- International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (chap. 29, workers and trade unions);
- International Chamber of Commerce and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (chap. 30, business and industry);
- International Council for Science and World Federation of Engineering Organisations (chap. 31, scientific and technological communities);

- International Federation of Agricultural Producers and Via Campesina (chap. 32, farmers).

3. The organizing partners were requested to carry out two main tasks in consultation with their major group community: (a) facilitating the drafting of a dialogue paper and (b) facilitating the identification of their major group's delegates to the dialogue. In identifying delegates, the organizing partners were also requested to aim for geographical and gender balance, and to attempt generation balance by including different age groups in their delegations as far as possible.

4. The dialogue papers prepared by each major group are attached to the present note as addenda 1-9. As required by decision 2001/PC/3, these papers primarily focus on progress achieved in implementing the objectives of the chapters on major groups contained in section III of Agenda 21,<sup>2</sup> but also attempt to establish links with other chapters as appropriate.

5. The dialogue segment at the first substantive session is scheduled from 29 to 31 January, as follows:

- 29 January 2002: a plenary meeting in the afternoon focusing on "Overall progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21: identifying success and failure hot spots";
- 30 January 2002: Two parallel all-day Discussion Groups focusing on:

Discussion Group I: Progress achieved in applying integrated approaches to sectoral and cross-sectoral objectives of sustainable development;

Discussion Group II: Progress achieved in enabling multi-stakeholder participation in sustainable development institutions and mechanisms;

- 31 January 2002: a plenary meeting in the morning focusing on "Opportunities for new implementation initiatives that respond to the identified hot spots, constraints and participatory needs".

6. By the decision of the Bureau of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, the two plenary dialogue sessions will be moderated by the Chair of the Bureau, while the Discussion Groups will be co-moderated by the Vice-Chairs from Brazil, Czech Republic, Jamaica and Japan.

7. The Bureau of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee and the organizing partners listed above continue to work on the details of the multi-stakeholder dialogue segment of the final session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee. A set of dialogue papers by major groups containing views and proposals on priorities, partnerships, commitments and targets will be released ahead of the fourth session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee.

8. The multi-stakeholder processes that the Commission launched in 1998 is increasingly considered a model mechanism for increasing participation in sustainable development decision-making at all levels, as was required by Agenda 21 (chap. 23, para. 23.2). It is expected that the dialogues in the Summit and its preparatory work will become the fertile ground from which tangible partnerships emerge, significantly augmenting the global efforts to move from words to action in the next phase of work on sustainable development.

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/56/19)*, chap. VIII, sect. B.

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution I, annex II.